of defending signatories of the League Covenant against unprovoked attack. Sir John Simon proposed the total abolition of submarines and poison gas, and M. Litvinov, the total abolition of all weapons, whether technically offensive or defensive. This proposal, repeated at intervals, and after its novelty had worn off, greeted with laughter, led Senor Madariaga, the Spanish delegate, to tell an instructive parable. Birds and animals, he said, came together for a disarmament conference. The lion suggested to the eagle that it should dispense with its talons, the eagle appealed to the bull to give up its horns, the bull appealed to the tiger to abandon its claws. Finally, the bear suggested that all should disarm and join him in a universal embrace.

Technical committees were set up and discussed at length the difficult and delicate question of distinguishing between offensive and defensive weapons; experts met and considered, for instance, whether permitted guns should be of 100 mm. or 150 mm. calibre; the relative merits of qualitative and quantitative disarmament were exhaustively debated, and great ingenuity was displayed in formulating an acceptable definition of an aggressor. All the Conference's energies were expended on skilfully avoiding issues which might force it to go into liquidation. It became an institution, adjourning, re-assembling, again adjourning; at each adjournment speeches being made and leading articles written to the effect that, though perhaps no definite conclusions had been reached, much useful work had been done, and that the adjournment of the Conference did not at all mean the adjournment of work for disarmament, rather the

very opposite.
A British Draft Convention provided material for discussion
when the twenty-seven plans had been translated, noted, tabulated, and circulated to delegates, who carried them for a while
to and from Conference meetings in leather satchels, and then
discarded them, arms wearying of carrying them, eyes wearying
of catching a glimpse of them when, for some reason or other,
or for no reason, satchels were opened and their contents outspread.

Though the British Draft Convention was accepted as pro-